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PRIVATE RESIDENTS AT THE
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ESTABLISHED 1857

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A most pleasant retreat for those desirous of
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WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 27th January, 1908.

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Only communications relating to the news column should be addressed to THE EDITOR.
Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication but as evidence of good faith.
All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
No anonymous signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.
Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be sent before 11 a.m. on day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash.
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BIRTH.
On the 29th January at "Tybatoo," Peak, the wife of R. Bishop, of a son. [285]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOGES ROAD C
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 30th, 1908.

SHANGHAI has no peer. There is no settlement, model or otherwise, anywhere in the world that presents similar peculiarities of constitution. Nowhere else, we imagine, is there a like possibility of so many anomalous conditions. Anyone presuming to argue on Shanghai politics, be his acquaintance big or little, commits his way to a maze whence extrication is unlikely to follow without periods of vexatious puzzlement, tentative turnings, and many steps traced and retraced. That is because it is at once international and national, chartered and yet treaty-bound, free and self-contained, and still hampered and clogged by all sorts of reservations. The Municipal Election of January 23rd raised an issue we had been expecting for a long time. The N.C. Daily News on the day before the election referred to the "Tammany-like tactics" of an American caucus which had at the last moment nominated extra American and German candidates, without warning, and which had, as our contemporary alleged, individually agreed to "plump" for these "dark horses," and so upset the traditional constitution of the administrative body. The Shanghai Municipal Council has for nearly half a century been composed of nine British members, one American, and one German. Over four decades ago, the American Government took nothing like the same interest in the fate of its Shanghai representatives that it has lately done, and the American settlement in Hongkong, find-

ing itself unable or indisposed to accept the responsibility of policing that always lawless and straggling quarter, gladly agreed to incorporation with the larger and more central British Settlement. With his usual fatuous magnanimity, the John Bull of that period himself started the clay-footed idol of internationalism, being unable to see further than the length of his own nose, and consequently blind to the difficulties that were bound to arise and that have now arisen. The Council of those early days, British to the backbone, and blind to the duty of holding its own voluntarily and of its own accord invited one American and one German to sit at its table. It thereby planted the seed of this very national issue which our contemporary now deprecates. There is, as the *Orientalische Lloyd* has admitted, no law to make that tradition binding, and we confess we would be glad to see the British electorate, while it still has the power, face the turmoil and trouble that would thereby come, and decide henceforth upon a purely British council. It would seem unjust; it would be called unjust; but no one, certainly no British subject, would claim that such a procedure could endanger the good government of the Settlement. This Consular Body would still be the obstructive and conservative force it has hitherto proved—a sort of upper House—and the other nationals would not suffer, except perhaps in their imperial interest, in the place, and that, as Britons, we could contemplate with equanimity. In face of what we have already written, it is obvious that we do not endorse our contemporary's claim that Shanghai elections have hitherto been conducted on issues of personality rather than nationality. The very constitution of the Council, the presence of one American and of one German representative, has been a standing reminder of the national issue threatened. It would be absurd after all these years of British national as well as personal preponderance to persist in the claim that a national view has not been taken; and it would be equally foolish to suppose that the day must never come when the Americans and Germans, increasing in numbers, would begin to think themselves entitled, by a process of national sympathy, to larger representation. This, indeed, is obviously just what has happened, and just what we have been expecting to happen every year of late. We rejoiced over our contemporary's intervention, even while doubting some of the logic of its position, and we certainly agree with it in our dislike of the manner in which the coup d'état has been attempted. We do not quarrel with the American tactics, however. They have their own chreud ways of playing the political game, and that trick of springing the new nominations as a surprise at the latest possible hour was the only way likely to achieve success. If the N.C. Daily News had not been alert, it might easily have succeeded. There is another reason why any moral indignation about it would seem excessive and rather of the nature of humbug. That is the well-known fact that these elections have always been conducted in a "cut and dried" way. So far as the "personality" argument is concerned, previous councils for many years may almost be said to have been elected en bloc. Except on odd occasions, the electors have been apathetic, and when there did happen to be an issue tending to popular excitement, it often fizzled out at the annual meeting in a fusillade of laughter and cheers. This year, according to a German correspondent, there was a repetition of the "cut and dried" method, with which, by the way, when practicable, we do not quarrel. The German writes:

"We also do not object to there being seven British councillors and one American and one German only as long as the seven British enjoy general confidence. Such however is not the case with all the seven British candidates who have been brought forward this time. There are no less than three amongst their number who, we are informed, are anything but popular and considered suitable even by their own countrymen. We hear that there is further one candidate who does not wish to serve any longer and who has merely been induced to star on because no other British candidate could be persuaded to come forward. Why not under such circumstances look round amongst other nations and take a suitable man from them? What does it matter, for instance, if there are two Germans on the Council, provided they are good men? Does it mean that the Council will be germanized? Not at all, and any attempt of this kind would be downright ridiculous in the face of the largely predominant British vote which could easily throw out any non-British candidate at any election even without the assistance of the votes of those 6,000 non-British residents, for whom, as you claim, the British are the natural trustees."

We are glad to note this admission that there is still a largely predominant British vote, and hope it will be used as it ought to be. We hope there may be plenty of public spirited Britons to come forward in future as candidates, and that they will be supported irrespective of their personal popularity. We have seen how larger issues may be

sacrificed to petty considerations of that sort, as, for instance, in the case of Sir Ross Baxton, whose personal unpopularity with some of the members of the Shanghai branch of the China Association is not and never should be a justification of his rejection from the important post for which he is peculiarly fitted. Shanghai electors, those who are British, should vote for any candidate who is British and a capable man of affairs, whether they like or dislike his face or his manners. Surely this does not require to be argued. It is not entirely because we happen to be British that we dread a really international Government of Shanghai, but also because it is quite clear to us, as our contemporary points out, that a body composed of representatives of all the nationalities in Shanghai would be unworkable. Yet if Americans and Germans ought to be represented, why not the Japanese, Portuguese, Italians, Russians, and all the rest? Our contemporary urges the community to maintain the British form of administration because it has been in possession from the beginning and can only be exchanged for a Municipal Dabel. We go further, and would urge it to knock this international peril on the head at once, (that is, at the next opportunity) while it has the power, and to make and keep the administration purely British, favouring no one foreign nation over another. Otherwise, the flag of revolt now waving on the horizon will be brought right into the arena, and no man dare say what would happen. If Mr. J. WARD HALL faithfully indicates American views, we can make a fair guess. He writes, inter alia:

"A Britisher first put upon these Settlements the name of International, and it has adhered permanently, and a reference to the voting list as corrected to December 31 last will readily prove that Shanghai is not any longer a British town or community. Hence we cannot longer expect a virtually solid British representation on the Municipal Council. The 1,801, and we need no longer fear the power of the 'Absentee Landlord' nor the British domination. If our voters will take the trouble to vote we control the situation."

That ought surely to have roused the British electors even if our contemporary failed to do so. If they do not desire the "situation" to be "controlled" by the newcomers, and themselves with it, it would seem desirable that they should hasten to put their house in order. The motto of the municipality is "omnia juncia in uno." That is very pretty, very pretty indeed, under existing conditions; but we would earnestly warn every Shanghaiander who cares for the Model Settlement's fate that it will seem much less pretty if ever that "uno" ceases to be British.

Two armed robberies are reported to have occurred near Sikuang this week, pirates holding up two junks laden with wool and getting away with the booty which is said to be worth some hundreds of dollars.

A deaf and dumb bride and bridegroom have just been married by typewriter at Minneapolis, U.S.A., the registrar typing the questions and the bridal couple typing the answers on the same slip of paper. At least, so it is written.

Even in things medical, China is bestirring itself. Hitherto, anyone there could set himself up as a doctor without undergoing an examination; with the result that ignorant people practice the medical profession to the injury of the public. The authorities in Kiangsu province have sought to remedy this by the issuing of a proclamation ordering all Chinese doctors there to pass an examination to be held officially. The medical profession will be restricted to those who pass in two classes of fitness.

Inquiries are now being made in London, as to the rate necessary to insure the Callian diamond, recently presented to his Majesty by the Transvaal Government, while it is being out in Amsterdam. The rate is also to cover its safe transmission from London to Holland and back. From this, it is presumed that the appeal of the London diamond cutters that the diamond should be out in London, has failed, and that after all, the stone will be sent to the Continent. It is stated that the work will occupy two years.

Before Mr. H. E. J. Gompertz at the Police Court Misses H. Danga and Co. prosecuted a broker named Kwok Mo Kwai for obtaining the sum of \$220 by false pretences. The defendant was represented by Mr. E. J. Grist who raised the defence of mistaken identity, remarking that it was very likely the complainants had been defrauded, but not by his client. After hearing the evidence his Worship held that there was not sufficient evidence to prove that the defendant was the man who had obtained the money, and giving him the benefit of the doubt, discharged him.

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The *Easton* arrived at Yokohama on 24th inst.
The *Boston* left for Manila on 25th inst.

How to be BEAUTIFUL—Keep your complexion, Mrs. Ellen's Ointment, Charman's, Laid Charman and Special Skin Tonic and Powder Charman will enable you to do it. Has Specialties for the Skin: are the study of a lifetime. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., Sole Agents.

TELEGRAMS.

[MUNICIPAL SERVICE.]

ASIATICS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

LONDON, January 27th.
The *Daily Telegraph* states that the Johannesburg Government realising the seriousness of the situation has decided to reconsider the whole attitude towards Asiatics; to appoint a Supreme Court Judge to examine into the objections to the Registration Act; to devise a system which will not offend the susceptibilities of the Asiatics, and, if necessary, to make amendments to the Act next session. In the meanwhile the Act will be in abeyance and prosecutions cease.

Reuters Agency in Pretoria wires that Mr. Smuts declares there is no truth whatever in the *Telegraph's* statement re Asiatics in the Transvaal.

TURKEY AND PERSIA.

LONDON, January 27th.
A Russian telegram from Tabriz states that Prince Firman Firma has evacuated Sujbulak.

GALE AT PORT SAID.

LONDON, January 27th.
A gale has been raging at Port Said since Sunday and much damage has been done; the telegraphs are interrupted and the canal traffic suspended.

LOCAL SPORT.

INTERPORT FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG F. C. V. SHANGHAI F. C.
The following compose the team of the Hongkong Football Club selected to play in the match against the Shanghai Football Club on Monday:—Goal: F. H. Kew; Backs: E. F. Aucott (Capt), A. Hamilton; Halves: J. Hall, A. Gregory and A. Pirory; Forwards: W. H. Williams, B. R. Turner, O. Eager, J. Wishart and J. Mead. Reserves: H. L. O. Garrett and H. W. Sayer. Referee: P. S. Jameson. Kick off at 4 p.m. An extra stand has been erected and charges will be as at Shield Final, viz:—50 cents and \$1.

CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR SANDAKAN.

A crowded meeting of the principal Chinese merchants and traders in Sandakan was held at the Court House on Friday, December 27th. It was called by Mr. W. H. Fennay, the Protector of Chinese and Superintendent of Immigration, to consider the advisability of forming a North Borneo Chinese Chamber of Commerce, on the same lines as the one in Singapore. The scheme was received enthusiastically, and it was decided to make a beginning at once, and to erect a special building which will be commenced as soon as the necessary funds are collected. It was also decided to adopt the Singapore Rules, with a few exceptions of minor importance. Another meeting is to be held shortly to elect officers. It is a gratifying sign to the prosperity of Sandakan, and of the country generally, says the *British North Borneo Herald*, to see the Chinese business men taking up with so much zeal public questions like the above. There is no doubt that this is a move in the right direction, formed as it is for the protection of the general interest of the trade of the country, for gathering mercantile information, and for establishing a committee of arbitration to adjust commercial differences which may be referred to it.

WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—The barometer has risen considerably in E. Japan, and fallen moderately over China. Pressure is highest over N. China and the Yellow Sea. It is relatively low over Tongking. Fresh to strong monsoon may be expected in the Formosa Channel and the China Sea. Hongkong rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.0 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

N.E. to E. winds, strong; probably some rain.	
N.E. winds, fresh.	
South coast of China between Hongkong and Lamook.	Same as No. 1.
South coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan.	Same as No. 1.

Mr. T. Werner Laurie will publish shortly "The Story of the Life of Tom Morris; with glimpses of St. Andrews and its golfing celebrities by Miller W. W. Tulloch, D.D. member of the Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews. Dr. Tulloch is the author of the story of the Life of Queen Victoria (in four parts), both of which volumes received Her late Majesty's careful correction and revision. Through "Golfing" in serial form and now being republished with many additions and numerous rare illustrations. Mr. William Dalrymple, one of the greatest authorities on the game writing under the nom de plume of "Cleekeham" in the "St. Andrews Citizen," says it is an "invaluable work and that it is impossible to over-estimate its value as a trustworthy chronicle of the golf of which it treats." Besides being a record of the life of the Grand Old Man of Golf and his son the famous champion golfer Tommy Morris, it is a history of St. Andrews golf during the past century and no Golf Club or golfer interested in the historical and literary use of the game can afford to be without it.

THE STRANDING OF THE S.S. "YIK SANG."

A Marine Court of inquiry was held at the Harbour Office yesterday respecting the circumstances attending the stranding of the British s.s. "Yik Sang" of which Captain W. S. Thomas was master and commander. The Court was composed of Commander Basil E. H. Taylor, R.N., Stipendiary Magistrate, Commander Marchant H. Penfold R.N., Navalyard, Captain Pybus, s.s. "Empress of Japan," Captain F. Jamieson, s.s. "Singan" and Captain A. E. Hodgins, s.s. "Haiching."

The President read the captain's letter asking for an inquiry, and the Governor's warrant constituting the Court.

Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), who appeared for Captain Thomas of the "Yik Sang" read a letter written by his client to the owners of the vessel in which he set out the facts of the stranding, and then stated that the captain had lost everything in the wreck, even the log book.

Captain Thomas said he left Wakamaten on January 10th and reached Oku without mishap. The vessel was travelling at full speed 8.6 to 8.7 knots. At noon on the 14th witness instructed the Chief Engineer to reduce from 72 to 68 revolutions, which would give a speed of 8.1 knots. His object was to get into Hongkong early in the morning. When abeam of Oku the weather was fairly clear and continued so until witness left the deck about midnight. At 11.50 p.m. witness altered his course to 8.46 W., error 1 east. He altered his course because he did not see the Chapple Island light, and therefore he decided to give the Brothers a wide berth. Witness thought he would have seen Chapple Island light had he been within eight miles of it. He never turned in with a clearer conscience in his life than on that night. After leaving Oku he thought he had two hours ebb tide; then there would be about five and a half hours flood. The Chief Officer was on deck at the time of the changing of the watch. Before leaving the bridge witness gave instructions to be called if the weather set in thick. The captain then turned in and was awakened by a heavy crash about 4.30 a.m. He ran on deck, and met the Chief Officer who said the vessel had struck the high Brother with a tremendous crash. Witness went aft and asked the engineer if he could put the pumps on. The latter said the fires were out and he could not. Then he saw the cylinders were awash, and was quite satisfied nothing could be done to save the ship. Witness thought the weather was then foggy. He ordered the boats to be lowered immediately, but the chief and second officers were already doing this. There was quite a confusion among the Chinese on board and when No. 1 boat was lowered they jumped in and swamped it. The chief and second officers did their duty thoroughly. There was a heavy swell on at the time. All the ship's papers were lost: he put the log book into the No. 1 boat, but it was capsized. The Chief Engineer and witness were the last two on board. The second officer was then hanging on to the side and calling out "Come on captain."

Witness ordered the Chief Engineer to go into a boat two or three times but he wouldn't go. He said:—"You first captain." Witness then got into the boat, as the water was beginning to roll over the ship's rail. The Chief Engineer made several attempts to follow but went back on each occasion. Finally he had to push off. Witness told the Chief Engineer to jump, but he would not do so. The boats then made for the lee of the Brothers, but as there was a heavy swell there witness told the crew not to land. The boatswain did, however, and witness believed the five Chinese were lost from his boat.

How far were you away when No. 2 boat capsized?—About 30 feet.
Did you endeavour to save all you could?—Yes, and pulled many on to a rock.
The President—What became of the survivors from No. 1 boat?—They landed on the rock.

Proceeding, witness said he took more care with his boat than the others. He approached the rock with caution and succeeded in landing 16 men safely. The other boat rushed on to the rock and swamped. Witness then returned to the wreck to look for the Chief Engineer. When the boat got back the ship had sunk. They searched for the Chief Engineer for four or five hours during which time they examined all the wreckage. In this search they found No. 6 boat waterlogged, bailed it out and put the plug in.

By Captain Pybus—With regard to these missing Chinese, have you any evidence they were on board?—Yes, they were caught in Japan.

Do you keep a night order book?—Yes, but on this night I hadn't written it up.

Who was on deck when the accident happened?—The Chief Officer.

By Captain Hodgins—Did the ship stor well?—As a rule she kept a very good course. By Mr. Wilkinson—When you were on the wreck did you see any vessel pass?—No, but we heard the whistle of one which passed close to the Brothers, and I tried to head her off.

Chief Officer William Gibb had been on the "Yik Sang" three months, and had known the China coast for eight years. He was nine years in the employ of the Indo-China Co. When passing Oku on the 14th witness took bearings at noon. When abeam they were 6.4 miles away. Witness considered the course laid down by the captain, S 43 W a perfectly safe course. He was on watch from eight till twelve that evening. They were then approaching Chapple Island in very heavy weather. He thought they could see from five to six miles after dark. They could have seen Chapple Island about ten miles away, but did not see it. He kept a lookout for it until he thought it was abeam. Prior to leaving the bridge at eight minutes to twelve the captain

altered the course two degrees, remarking that he would haul her out a little. The course was a perfectly safe one and would have been taken by other ships. At midnight the second officer relieved witness, and was given instructions to call the captain if the weather came on thick, and full directions as to the course. The Chief Officer returned to the deck at four o'clock, the weather then being much the same.

By the President—There was a moon that night, but it had set by four o'clock.

Continuing witness said it was customary to clear fires at four in the morning. They burned Japanese coal which made considerable smoke. The smoke was blowing on the lee bow and obscured the vision of those on board. Witness thought he could safely see at least three miles at four in the morning, but not in the wake of the smoke. At four o'clock they must have been within three miles of the Brothers. The reason he could not see them was because the smoke was blowing right on them. He first saw them when from a ship's length and a half to two ship's lengths away. They were then slightly on the starboard bow. The high Brother suddenly appeared through the smoke, and then witness put the helm hard astarboard and thought he would be able to clear. They struck heading south east by south. When the vessel struck witness went to call the master, met him coming up and told him what had happened. Then he went to sound the bells, but could not find the bell and could not get the carpenter, as the whole of the crew rushed on deck as soon as the ship struck. The boats were immediately lowered and witness got into the starboard No. 2 boat with the second officer and the second engineer. When working out the fourth boat the Chinese crew ran away and left them. Witness went aft, saw the Chief Engineer, and told him to stand by and get ready to leave the ship. It was dark by this time and witness could do nothing more to lower the other boats. The Captain was the last man to leave the ship. When witness returned from his boat he thought he was the last man on board; he could not see the Chief Engineer on board then, and it was only when they left the ship that he saw him. When witness pushed off they steered for the Brothers. He told the boatswain, who was in the other boat with him, to keep off the rock until the morning, but the latter disobeyed that order, his boat was capsized and witness believed the five missing Chinese went down with that boat. After leaving the rock shortly after ten, witness saw the hull of a vessel inside the Little Brother, but he could not form any impression as to what she was. He hailed her and tried to head her off, but she was going too fast.

By Commander Penfold—Witness checked the compass at four o'clock by the standard.

By Captain Pybus—At ten o'clock the weather was clear to seaward and foggy towards the land. The state of the weather at four o'clock did not necessitate calling the captain.

By the President—The stamer witness saw could not have been more than a quarter of a mile away. There was not much wind when passing Oku.

James Pingle, Second Officer of the "Yik Sang" said he joined the ship in February. When he went on deck on the 14th Oku was about a point and a half abeam the beam. The weather was hazy, but they could see about nine miles. Witness was instructed by the Chief Officer to call him if it became foggy. He was not surprised not to see the light of Chapple Island as they were passing a good distance off. At about three o'clock there was a perfectly clear horizon. They would then be about twelve miles away from the Brothers. The smoke from the steamer's funnels was then blowing on the starboard bow, and the wind was carrying it along faster than the steamer, so that it obscured his vision somewhat. Witness was asleep when the ship struck, but awakened, and by the sound of the grating he knew that her bottom must have been badly damaged, so proceeded to get the boats out. He had to do this himself as the Chinese crew appeared to be dumfounded, and would not obey orders. The captain was the last man to leave the ship. Witness did not see the Chief Engineer, but knew later that he was missing.

By Captain Hodgins—Witness did not have to alter the helm through meeting steamers or fishing boats.

Second Engineer, William McCall, said he had been on the "Yik Sang" for eighteen months. On leaving Oku the speed was 73 revolutions; three days later this was reduced to 72 revolutions; and on the morning of the 14th it was further reduced to 68 revolutions. When the ship struck the engines were still going ahead, but as soon as he realised what had happened he shut them off without orders from deck. There was not much time for that. As soon as the ship struck she began to make water rapidly.

Kin Chan, quartermaster, was on watch when the ship struck. At four o'clock in the morning it was very foggy and he could not see far.

After the tiffin adjournment Captain Thomas was recalled and stated that there were no passengers on board. The ship did not give a list when she struck but lay on an even keel throughout; she had two double bottoms under the hold. He checked the error of the compass three times on the 14th.

Mr. Wilkinson, addressing the Court, submitted that this was a case of inevitable accident, the accident being due to an abnormal set in of the current. He thought the ship seen near the Brothers had not set a course to go inside them, but was carried in. The captain's conduct after the accident showed that he was a man to be relied upon, and the only question with regard to the Chief Officer was whether he should have seen the Brothers before he did. His view, however, was obscured, until too late, but there was nothing in his conduct to justify any measure being passed on him. The second officer was also a reliable man, and in the circumstances he submitted all were entitled to go free.

The Court was then cleared to enable members to consider the evidence.

When it re-opened, the Court found that the ship was properly and prudently navigated, that a proper lookout was kept and all reasonable precautions taken, and that the accident was due to a very abnormal set in of the current.

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the China Provident Loan and Mortgage Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., yesterday morning. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present Mr. H. P. White, Dr. J. W. Noble, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing-keo (Consulting Committee), J. A. Young (Secretary), J. M. E. Machado, G. C. C. Master, R. Hancock, J. McCubbin, E. W. Terry, Fung Wa-Chau, U. P. Hing, U. Hing, and U. P. Yau.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, said—Gentlemen: The report and accounts for the year 1907 have been in your hands for some days, with your permission, we will take them as read on this occasion. You will have seen from them that we are able to pay our usual dividend of eight per cent and add \$6,000 to the Reserve Fund after writing off \$4,000 from our profits to meet depreciation of securities. This, I hope you will agree with me, is a very favourable result in a very unfavourable year for business throughout the Colony. As you know, failures in Chinese commercial circles have been numerous and our business of making loans has required more than the usual amount of thought and consideration. Whether you choose to put it down to good luck or good management, the fact remains that we have come off exceedingly well in the matter of debt in a year of heavy loss and unsatisfactory trade all round, not to do any of the loans now in our books give us any particular anxiety. In regard to the accounts it is of course regrettable that we have to provide so much to cover shrinkage in value of our investments, but as you all know, we are not singular in this respect, all stocks and shares having suffered from the prevailing depression and dropped to figures much below their normal value. Our holdings of Light and Power shares however show a profit of \$6, their average cost being about \$5, and in reference to these shares I would like to explain that we did not specially select them as an investment for our reserve, but they came into our possession as the outcome of our transactions with that Company, which resulted very profitably for us. Having the shares thus on our hands we earmarked them to the Reserve Fund, but if we had had any choice in the matter we should have chosen a less speculative and more easily realisable stock for the purpose. However, we can make better use of the money in our ordinary business, so we have now, as you will notice from the balance sheet, withdrawn the shares from the reserve, and will dispose of them from time to time as quickly as possible.

You will see that in accordance with the decision come to at the meeting of 26th October last we have purchased the property known as the Po On or Ku Yik Godowns for \$850,000 plus \$425,000 for fees, legal expenses etc. From all we have seen of the business so far we are quite well pleased with its prospects and feel satisfied that we have made a very good bargain in your interests, for anyone who knows anything of the value of property in that district will tell you that the price paid is a very low one. To cover interest on the cost we have a steady income from storage, which we feel sure can increase. I need not enlarge upon the advantage of now having the goods upon which we make advances in our own care in our own godowns. To provide for the purchase of this property the paid up capital of the Company was increased to \$1,250,000, in accordance with the resolution passed on 26th October last.

There is only one other matter to which I think I may refer and that is the low market price of our shares. It is not a matter that comes within the jurisdiction of the general managers but my attention has been drawn to the point by shareholders who have asked me to give you my opinion at this meeting. All I can say is that I consider the shares are quoted at much below their real value. It is not as if our profits were problematical or our business a speculative one. All our advances are covered while in the case of Provident Loans the margin of security increases with every monthly payment. At the most the greatest risk you run is of an error in judgment on our part in advancing too much on the security offered, but considering how our advances are re-secured the risk in that way is reduced to a minimum, and so far, although losses are to be expected in every business, ours have been few and far between and very slight at that. I have no desire to boom the Company's shares for that is an operation that always rests on the heads of Directors and Managers, nor can I pronounce an opinion as to the true market value for that depends on supply and demand, and we all know that the demand is poor just now, but if you will see that intrinsically the shares are worth on a division of the assets at least \$11 each, and if you will remember that those assets are liquid or easily realisable, and not sunk in plant and machinery or unsaleable stock you must agree with me that ours is one of the soundest stocks in the market, and should certainly be in better request. I shall be pleased to answer any questions shareholders may wish to ask.

There being no questions the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. MASTER—May I second that motion? And may I say on my own behalf that I intended with great pleasure to the Chairman's address and I think shareholders must be pleased to hear his views as to the soundness of the Company. Personally I always wondered how it could come a smash except by extremely bad management, and I would certainly not do Messrs. Shewan Tomes and Company and particularly Mr. Robert Shewan, the injustice of thinking they could not manage it.

Mr. SWEAN—Thank you.

Mr. MASTER—I have always wondered why these shares have stood so low because, as Mr.

Shewan says, we have not got our capital sunk in some particular business with large stocks and machinery which one day might become useless owing to improvements. I personally think this is a company in which the widow and orphan might put their money and feel fairly secure, and I am very pleased Mr. Shewan has rather opened out in his remarks as it will give shareholders confidence, and I thoroughly believe all he says. The report and accounts were then adopted.

Mr. MACHADO proposed the re-election of the Consulting Committee, with the addition of Mr. U. P. Hing.

Mr. Fung Wa-Chau seconded, and the motion was carried.

Messrs. A. O. D. Gourdin and W. H. Pettis were re-elected auditors on the motion of Mr. McCubbin, seconded by Mr. Terry.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen, dividend warrants are now ready.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

BUSINESSLIKE REPORT OF LOCAL BRANCH.

The Hongkong branch of the China Association holds its annual meeting to-day (Thursday) at four o'clock. Following is its annual report: The last report was issued in December, 1906, and the present is intended to cover the period from then until 31st December, 1907. The questions which have occupied the attention of the Committee have not been of so momentous a character as those dealt with last year, and to a great extent the work has consisted in giving our support and influence to representations made by other branches. The London Committee have not followed up their plan of last year of issuing an interim report; there is, therefore attached to this report copies of such correspondence exchanged during the year as may be of interest to our members. The following are the principal subjects which have come before the Committee:—

"SAINAM" PIRACY.

Early in the year a communication was received that the British Government had, after consideration, declined to support the owners of the "Sainam" for consequential damages arising out of the Chinese piracy of their vessel on the 13th July, 1906. This decision was received with much regret by the Committee, as it was felt that only by enforcing an indemnity compensation could the Provincial Authorities be induced to take serious measures to suppress the piracy.

In consideration of the fact that the British Foreign Office took a lenient view of the Chinese Government's responsibility in the matter, it is not surprising to find that the small claim put forward for actual damages done, and compensation for death and injuries, is still outstanding. The circumstances bears out all previous experience of Chinese official tactics and justifies the arguments employed by us in representing the case to the London Branch.

Now it only remains to hope that the expedition of placing a patrol of British gunboats and destroyers upon the Delta, until satisfaction for the outrage has been given, will induce the Chinese authorities to take up a less obstinate attitude towards this particular claim and to provide against any recurrence of the troubles which led to it.

COMPANIES (TREATY PORTS REGISTERS)

ORDINANCE, 1907.

At the suggestion of the Shanghai branch representations were made to the local Government for several alterations in the proposed Ordinance, which have been practically adopted in the Ordinance as passed.

OPIMUM MONOPOLY.

A letter was received from the firms interested in the opium business calling attention to the fact that monopolies were being established at Nanking and other places in contravention of clauses V and X of the Treaty of Nanking of 1842. The Shanghai branch had already despatched the following telegram to London on July 11th:—"Are informed Viceroy of Nanking arranging Opium Monopoly account Chinese Government. China Association Shanghai without expressing opinion opium question desire, strong protest. Foreign Office against monopoly. Apply David Sassoon & Co., full particulars." The committee resolved to wire London supporting the Shanghai telegram and also to support the local Chamber of Commerce in the action they were taking on the same lines.

INSPECTOR GENERALSHIP OF CUSTOMS.

In view of the reported retirement of Sir Robert Hart and the appointment of his successor, this committee joined with the Shanghai branch in representing their views to the London Committee.

TIENTSIN POST OFFICE.

On the threatened closure of this office by the Hongkong Government a communication was received from the Tientsin branch of the China Association, asking this committee to petition against such closing, or at any rate to ask for an extension of time until the outward mails had arrived which were posted at the rate applying to the British Empire dependencies. The Committee were informed by the Government that the reason of the closure was a financial one, as the estimated loss would be about \$7,000 a year, and it was felt by this Committee that it would be unfair to the Hongkong taxpayers to ask them to pay this loss, the more so as the Hongkong post office would probably lose \$100,000 by the recent decision of the Postal Congress to raise the weight to be carried for 1 lb. to 1 oz., etc. It is satisfactory to note that the Tientsin Municipal Council has guaranteed the deficiency for a year, and that the office is to be kept open for that period. In the meantime the Tientsin branch is bringing the matter before the Imperial Government with a view to the latter making good any deficit and in this they have been assured of the support of this branch.

CHAIRMANSHIP.

On the departure of Mr. Murray Stewart for home in April, Mr. A. G. Wood was elected in his place.

There have been several changes in the Committee. Mr. W. A. Cruikshank left for home, and Hon. Mr. Henry Keewick has taken his place. The Committee now consists of Mr. A. G. Wood, (Chairman), Hon. Mr. Henry Keewick, Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Messrs. D. R. Law, G. H. Medhurst, H. E. Tomkins, and A. S. D. Connelan (Hon. Secretary).

ACCOUNTS.

These show a credit balance of \$363.42. A. G. WOOD, Chairman.

Following are extracts from the correspondence appended:—

H. B. M. Consul-General.

Canton, 6th November, 1906.

Sir,—I am in receipt of a despatch from H. M. Minister to the effect that he is instructed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that your Company's claim for \$150,000, the estimated consequential loss owing to the piracy of the s.s. "Sainam," cannot be supported. A claim for your direct losses and for those of passengers would however in his view be reasonable.

I am instructed to ask that as far as practicable vouchers or certified copies of vouchers should support each item, and would therefore ask you to supply these together with duplicate copies of your claim on the lines laid down by Sir Edward Grey. The Chinese passengers' claims should be carefully investigated as you doubtless know from practical experience that in such matters it is customary for natives to claim much more than they expect to receive. I am, &c.

R. W. MANSFIELD, Consul General.

W. E. CLARKE, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Hongkong.

H. B. M. Consul-General, Canton, 6th February, 1907.

Sir,—Referring to your letter of November 15th last, I beg to inform you that I am in receipt of a telegram from H. M. Minister at Peking, to the effect that H. M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, after consideration of the representations made by the China Association and the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, is unable to allow the claim for consequential damages.

I am instructed therefore to proceed with the presentation of the claim on the lines communicated to you in my letter of November 6th last. I am, &c.

R. W. MANSFIELD, Consul General.

W. E. CLARKE, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Hongkong.

Letters about the threatened opium monopoly have already appeared in our columns, and the Tientsin Post Office question has also had its details ventilated, but the following looks fresh:—

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 25th November, 1907.

Sir,—Referring to your letter of the 26th instant, I am directed to transmit the enclosed copy of a statement, which was forwarded to the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce on the 16th instant, showing how the estimated deficit on the working of Tientsin Post Office has been calculated.

The Military contribution levied on the receipts from the office has not been included. I am, &c.

F. H. MAY, Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, China Association.

STATEMENT.

Revenue.

Stamps, etc. based on return of last eight months of 1907 ... \$6,163

Estimated decrease due to action of Rome Convention in raising weight from 15 to 20 grs. and 2nd rate 6 cents instead of 10 cents taken at 30 per cent. 1,985

Estimated increase of business 10 per cent. 463

85,096

Expenditure.

Personal Emoluments ... \$4,608

Other charges ... 690

Share of stationery, cost of stamps, etc. 120

Transit on mails from Tientsin, based on actual returns ... 5,408

A) Cost of transit for mails from Shanghai to Tientsin through Chinese Post Office, which would have saved if there was no British Post Office at Tientsin. 3, 60

13,886

Reduction on transit rates due to action of Rome Convention principally on (A) ... 1,850

12,036

Increase of business ... 500

12,536

Loss if Military contribution is not taken into account \$12,536—\$8,886=7,440

If Military contribution is taken into account loss is given by (\$4,850,96) (1—20/100)=12,536. Loss=\$10,574.

THE TEA TRADE.

THE ADVANCE IN VALUE AND ITS RESULTS.

The complete statistics for 1907 will not be published by the Board of Trade before January, but it is unnecessary to wait for them in order to record the fact that amongst all else that has been encouraging in our commerce this year the tea trade stands out, marked by consistent activity, accompanied by a moderate degree of prosperity for the planters, merchants, and brokers engaged in it. But to no one has it brought so much gain as to the Administration, which has derived from it no less than \$3,709,090 in the form of toll, at the rate of 22 1/2 sh on every 100 lb chest, before allowing it to reach the consumer—a singular proceeding on the part of those who say that imports ought to be free, and the people's food untaxed.

London's share of the business has not been so large as before; less has been landed here, and the beginning of a larger direct trade with Liverpool and Glasgow, helped by cheaper transit, is notified from Calcutta; less has been brought for shipment abroad, and though more private dealings are reported, the shipping-lane business has diminished by 240,000 packages. The business of some of the retail vendors, moreover, has not been so highly profitable to them as it was when tea was cheaper, but notwithstanding this, the close of the year finds the trade healthy, with an active and hardening market.

Four features require special notice, viz.: the large home consumption, the growth in the use of tea abroad, the substantial advance in value, and the fresh proof of the productiveness of the Indian and Ceylon plantations.

The quantity cleared for home use will be about 274,000,000 lb, which is 4,000,000 lb more than in 1906, and 15,000,000 lb more than in 1905. The increase upon last year's high total is surprising in view of the dearth of the grades that form the bulk of so many retailers' sales. After the advance in the spring it became so difficult to make a sufficient profit on them that everything in stock was used before clearing fresh supplies, a falling-off in deliveries was expected, but it is now made plain that the old duty-paid stocks have been worked off. This depletion of invisible supplies, coincident with a decline of 7,000,000 lb in the quantity remaining in bond, is a disadvantageous position for consumers, because it has left them dependent upon a continuous full supply. Any check to it, such as might follow, might be a little doubt, however, the one free consumption has been promoted by the large distributors having branches everywhere who refused to raise their prices when the market advanced, and went on selling at 12 1/2, which compelled their rivals to do the same. It is most improbable that so much would have been used if in the centres of dense and poor population none had been procurable under 12 1/2 or 14 1/2 p. lb. This action of the trading companies, though hard up in the grocers and certainly by those who fail to discern its effect has been very advantageous to producers and the public.

The prevalence of tea-drinking amongst us is not realised until one recalls that the Indian and Ceylon varieties now used make approximately 50 per cent. more liquid measure than can be brewed of equal strength from the same weight of China, and that whereas out of the 180,000,000 lb we consumed twenty years ago, nearly 50 per cent. was China tea, there is now only 34 per cent. in 274,000,000 lb. Measured in plants, the increased quantity we now drink is surprising.

The figures for eleven months ending November 30 are:—

Home Consumption, 1906. 1907.

Indian Tea ... 145,519,010 lb 150,314,000 lb

Ceylon Tea ... 86,078,000 lb 81,266,000 lb

China Tea ... 5,306,000 lb 8,852,000 lb

Java and others ... 12,287,000 lb 12,640,000 lb

Total ... 249,188,010 lb 254,072,000 lb

It will be seen there has been an increase of Indian at the expense of Ceylon tea, and that more China has been used, as the sequel to the large purchases of its common tea by the trade at low prices. When other kinds advanced, there is inquiry for fine China tea; and more might be sold if it were obtainable in quantity, but owing to careless cultivation and quality have deteriorated, and but little of the fine black tea that used to be so popular is now procurable and what there is costs too much for general use, while the ordinary qualities imported cannot hold their ground in competition with good tea grown elsewhere and sold at the low rates now current, i.e. between 9d and 1s per pound in the market. This has hastened the expression of China tea by our growers in one country after another. This process goes on as far as our annual output permits, for large though it be it is far short of what could be taken if it were supplied more and were to sell at cheaper than others.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE.

Whilst the use of tea has been increasing in this country, as already shown, a corresponding movement has been going on elsewhere during the last two years, except in the United States, with a twofold result: a larger quantity has been bought, and higher prices have been established for the sorts in most demand. The effect of this was greatly to enlarge the export from London, as well as from other countries of origin, but this year some of the foreigners have preferred to buy more in India, Ceylon, or China, and less in London, which has reduced our re-exports by about \$900,000 lb. The increased purchases from growers willing to sell in Colombo and Calcutta cause some concern here, because it is diverting much that would otherwise have come to this market, and the outcome of it cannot yet be foreseen. It is claimed that the conditions and terms of sale are in some respects more advantageous in the local markets than they are here, and the objection to selling anywhere but in London seems to be lessening. There seems to be no alternative to the London buyers but to outbid the foreign and Colonial operators in order to attract their what is required, for we cannot do without British-grown tea, and if there is not enough for all some one else must be content with less of it until the output of Indian tea increases.

The Russians are now the largest of these operators in Calcutta and Colombo, and their transactions have a material influence upon the market, as in addition to what they buy for the home use of their own low grade, dust and siftings, for their brick-tea factories in China, where tablets, &c., are made for Asiatic consumers. This business has an annual output of about 80,000,000 lb, and it opens a door through which a great deal of Indian and Ceylon tea is now passing into consumption. Including what has been bought for these factories, the Russian merchants have taken direct from our growers up to November about 25,000,000 lb, compared with about 20,000,000 lb last season, while, drawing 5,000,000 lb less from London, from China they have so far taken 34,000,000 lb, against 35,000,000 lb in 1906. Australia and New Zealand come next; they have already taken about 20,000,000 lb from Calcutta and Colombo, compared with 27,000,000 lb in 1906, while from China they have only bought about 2,000,000 lb. Their total consumption amounts to about 38,000,000 lb a year; a large quantity for a white population numbering less than five millions. Tea is free of duty there, except for 1d per lb levied in Australia by the new tariff on small packets and for protection of their own packers against those who employ coolie labour outside.

Canada is also a large buyer from us. This year's figures are not yet available, but last season 21,000,000 lb of Indian and Ceylon were imported with 4,230,000 lb of Japan and 1,165,000 lb of China. How Canadian trade has turned in our favour is seen by comparing this with its importation a few years ago—viz., only 7,350,000 lb from us, 11,670,000 lb from Japan, and 4,420,000 lb from China.

The United States present a perplexing problem, for, although their population increases by about 1,000,000 mouths a year, their importation of tea has declined since 1904, and was only 85,000,000 lb last season, to provide for some 54,000,000 people, whereas more than 80,000,000 lb used to be annually taken when the population was about 70,000,000. There has been a steady movement, however, in favour

KING EDWARD VII LIQUEUR WHISKY, WHITE LABEL.

PERFECT IN MELLOWNESS, AGE AND FLAVOUR. RIGHT WHISKY TO TAKE. NO ALL-EFFECTS.

\$15 PER CASE

BUT WORTH MUCH MORE.

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SOLE AGENTS:—

H. PRICE & CO., LTD.

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WINE, SPIRIT & CIGAR MERCHANTS.

12, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

of our growths until this year. For instance, 17,000,000 lb of Indian & Ceylon, with 68,000,000 lb of Japan and China, were imported last season, contrasted with only 8,000,000 lb of our growth and 58,000,000 lb of the others six years before; but this season we have not done so well, as America has taken less from us and more from China, which is attributable to the dearth of the kind of Indian tea they use. In view of the vast sums spent by planters in promoting the sale of their tea in the States, this set-back to our trade is disappointing. It would seem that the sort of commercial traveller wanted there and on the Continent is one who will teach the value of tea itself, not merely that one kind is better than another. The craving for a coffee hinders the use of tea in the States; its consumption averages about 936,000,000 lb a year, equal to 1 lb per head contrasted with the 3,400,000,000 lb a year that we use, plus some 800,000,000 lb of chicory showing that we consume under the name of "coffee" less than 1 lb per head per annum, against nearly 6 1/2 lb of tea.

Business with other countries is not sufficient to influence the market, but by adding it to what is done with the home customers a lot is reached which shows conclusively that more tea than hitherto is being used outside the United Kingdom. This is what has given the upward movement in value its force and stability, and it is a matter of the greatest importance to the East Indian growers, who see in it the fruition of the hope that has upheld them during the year of discouragement caused by the high taxation here and its depressing effect upon prices.

THE ADVANCE AND ITS RESULT.

In our survey of events in 1907 we traced the origin of this movement, showed how the causes of depression were being removed, and explained that the trade was entering upon a fresh phase. Before many weeks had passed some of the London buyers became impressed with the altered position and began to bid eagerly; their lead was followed, and the value of all kinds advanced, common tea rising as much as 10 per cent. from the lowest point. A substantial gain to producers resulted, the average price obtained for the Indian crop being 4s per pound higher than for the previous year, and while the planting companies published their balance sheets it was found that all but a few, which had incurred exceptional expenditure, were able to show larger profits than for years past. The average dividend paid by eighty-seven of these companies on \$7,930,000 of ordinary shares capital, including those which paid none, rose to 6 per cent., against 2 per cent. paid the year before, while seventy other companies registered in India, with a rupee capital equal to \$1,510,000, paid an average of 7 per cent., against 5 1/2 per cent. in 1906. The Ceylon companies also showed better results, but not to quite the same extent, as many of them had closed their accounts before the advance took place. Their turn has come this year, and some reports lately issued show that much better profits have been made, especially by those who have cocoa plantations as well as tea, and are already getting some yield from their rubber trees.

Since the animation in the spring there have been fluctuations in activity and value, but the net result has been to raise the price of Ceylon tea sold by the growers in London this year 3d per pound, and in Colombo 1d per pound, while the Indian tea of the new crop, of which about one-half has been disposed of, has given millers in London nearly 3d more, and in Calcutta 1 1/2d more than in 1906. The large advance in the latter market is due to the greater proportion of common tea sold there, on which the rise ranges from 2d to 3d per pound. A point worth noting is that the advance has not been aided by outside speculators, who are seldom so foolish as to touch tea; nor by speculators on the part of the Indian states, usually well known as their shipments arrive; nor has it been caused by any failure of crops, for they have been abundant, and at no time has there been scarcity. The reason for it is that instead of having to deal with over-production, the total obtainable from all sources is now barely enough to meet all demands. An increase of 3d per pound does not seem to be of great consequence to growers until it is known that their net profit on manufacture was probably not much more than 1d per pound in 1907 or more than 2d per pound in 1906. The year's advance has added 2500,000 to the revenue of the Ceylon planters, and should add 2750,000 or more to the receipts of the Indian growers, with the effect of substantially raising the present value of their properties.

POSITION OF THE PLANTERS.

The price of tea, however, is only one of many things which affect the position of producers; the state of their gardens and the conditions under which they are working are of primary importance. With regard to this, the events of the year confirm the opinion that Indian estates are capable of being made very productive by means of the high cultivation and scientific manuring now in vogue, as well as by increased yield from fresh plantings. The returns show that 221,000,000 lb were obtained from 520,000 acres in 1905, and 240,000,000 lb from 530,000 acres in 1906, while the yield this season was so good at first as to foreshadow a crop of 250,000,000 lb but a short fall of leaf at the end has obliged a great reduction in the estimates to be made, and there is now some reason to fear that the crop will be only 220,000,000 lb. It was only by the reduction of the Ceylon estates that the year's yield was again. In 1905 the exports were returned as 173,000,000 lb, with 38,600,000 lb being, but in 1906 they fell to about 170,000,000 lb, while this year 180,000,000 lb will be shipped, notwithstanding the rubber-trees now growing upon part of the planted area.

With the heavy crops made in several quarters there has come this year a somewhat common type of tea, which shows that plucking has been done with a heavy hand. It was only by the intelligence of the planters who have led some of them to recognise that the injunction against coarse plucking—a useful formula when common tea is a drug in the market—could be safely set aside when low grades were so much wanted and most remunerative rates obtainable. That demand for the

ECZEMA RESULTS FROM RINGWORM

Child Suffered Three Years From Running Eczema of Head—Doctors and Chemists' Prescriptions Fail—Head Now Clean and Free From Sores—In Three Weeks.

CUTICURA EFFECTED A MARVELOUS CURE

"It is with much pleasure that I write to inform you of the successful result of the use of Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment, which I used for a running eczema on my child's head, being the result of ringworms. I have had letters from the doctors, also from different chemists, but they did not have any effect on it. But after constantly washing the child's head with Cuticura Soap for about three weeks and using about half a box of Cuticura Ointment, I am pleased to say that my child's head is now perfectly clean and free from any sores, which I must say seems a marvelous cure after three years' suffering. I shall be pleased to recommend the Cuticura Remedies to any one. Mrs. A. Grant, 32, Bronson Road, Raynes Park, Surrey, March 10, 1906."

MILLIONS Of Women Use Cuticura Soap and Ointment

For preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of dandruff, and for the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing rough, and sore hands, for removing irritations, and for relieving itching, and for removing impurities, and for making the skin soft, smooth, and beautiful, as well as for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery.

Complete External and Internal Treatment for Every Form of Itching, Burning, and Stinging Skin Disease, including Eczema, Scabies, Ringworm, and all other Skin Affections. Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment, the only remedies that will cure all these diseases, and which are sold everywhere. Price, 2s. 6d. per box. Sold by all chemists and druggists. Write for free literature to J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.

48 14

cheapest instead of the best should prevail, not only here but in America and Australia also, disappoints many hopes, injures the sale of good tea, and discourages its manufacture, to which some recent importations from Ceylon bear witness, and its ultimate effect will be to lessen the quantity of fine tea made; but it has brought good fortune to planters in the low country in Ceylon, in Java, Travancore, Cachet, Siam, and the Doonah. Some of the latter have their short crops, but they are nearly all doing well, and the value of the sorts they make should be maintained next year, if it does not still further advance. Very little information about their position has yet been made known, but when those who are working in the districts named make up their balance sheets it will be found that many of them have made large profits; some of them may even have made a fine performance of the Doonah Company, which from 8,000 acres earned \$240,000 last season, and it will be done in more than

NOTICE

Communications respecting Advertisements, Subscriptions, and other business matters, should be addressed to the Editor, at the Office of the Daily Press, 10, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, and should be accompanied by the necessary payment in advance.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent to the Editor, at the Office of the Daily Press, 10, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, and should be accompanied by the necessary payment in advance.

Telephone Address: Press, 606. A.B.C. 6th Ed. Edition.

P.O. Box, 83. Telephone No. 12.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE

INSPECTOR E. ALLEN will not hold himself responsible for any debts incurred by His Wife, AUGUSTA ALLEN, on or after this date.

Hongkong, 28th January, 1908. 286

CHINA ASSOCIATION HONGKONG BRANCH.

MEMBERS are reminded of the Annual Meeting to be held TO-DAY (THURSDAY), at 4 P.M. in the City Hall, ALEX. S. D. COUSLAND, Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 24th January, 1908. 287

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

THE SHANGHAI FOOTBALL TEAM will be entertained at Dinner on TUESDAY, February 4th at the Hongkong Hotel at 7.45 P.M. All Members desirous of being present should notify the undersigned as soon as possible.

H. L. O. GARRETT, Hon. Secretary, Care of Hongkong Club.

Hongkong, 30th January, 1908. 288

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of Shareholders in this Company will be held at the Company's Office, Queen's Building, New Praya, on MONDAY, the 24th February, 1908, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors and the Statement of Accounts for the 31st December, 1907.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 10th to the 24th February, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors, THOS. I. ROSE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 30th January, 1908. 289

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW.

THE Company's Steamship, "HATCHING,"

Capt. A. E. Hodgins, will be despatched for the above Port TO-DAY, the 23rd inst., at 10 A.M. For Freight or Passage, apply to Messrs. DOUGLAS, LAURIE & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong, 30th January, 1908. 284

CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

IN accordance with Government Notification No. 41, the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY, the 3rd February.

Hongkong, 28th January, 1908. 273

SCOTTISH MASONIC QUADRILLE ASSOCIATION.

A REGALIA DANCE will be held in the City Hall, on FRIDAY, the 7th of February. In connection with the Regalia for English and Scotch Masons have been received from the Director Grand Master. No Invitations to this Dance will be issued after the 5th day of February.

A launch will leave the Star Ferry Wharf at 2 A.M. to convey Kowloon residents back.

JOHN J. BLAKE, Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 28th January, 1908. 282

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the YU HING LOONG Firm of No. 25, Wing Lok Street, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, have on the 31st day of September, 1907, and on the 5th day of November, 1907, applied for the registration in Hongkong in the Register of Trade Marks of the following TRADE MARKS viz:—

(a) The representation of a Chinese Store on the top of a stump of a tree with a bowl on the top of the stove and smoke or steam emitting from the bowl. On the right hand side of the stove is the representation of a Chinese girl in a kneeling position with the right hand pointing upwards and the left hand holding a fan and fanning the fire in the stove. Five birds are seen flying above the stove and the words "YU HING LOONG" appear on the top of the picture, and on the right hand side—there is the representation of a Willow tree with the words "STOVE BRAND—CONNELL MILLING COMPANY" underneath. The Chinese characters 丹爐為記 meaning "dark purple stove as (our) Trade Mark" are seen on the stove.

(b) The representation of a Chinese Harbour with hills hanging on its shores facing it on the right hand side are some bamboo trees, at the foot of which are two cranes one of which is facing the Harbour and the other is looking at a stream near the Harbour. At the foot of the representation are the words "YU HING LOONG" and the Chinese characters 竹亭為記 (in an ornamental border) meaning "Bamboo Arbour Trade Mark."

In the name of the said YU HING LOONG Firm, who claim to be the proprietors of the said Trade Marks are hereby proclaimed to be used by the applicants forthwith in respect of FLOUR in Class 42.

Facsimiles of the Trade Marks can be seen at the Office of the Colonial Secretary of Hongkong, and also at the Office of the Under-Signed.

Dated the 29th day of November, 1907.

GOLDING & BARLOW, Solicitors for the Applicants, 10, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong.

PUBLIC COMPANIES

HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Shareholders of the above Company will be held at the Registered Office of the Company, Alexandra Building, Des Voeux Road, Central, TO-MORROW (FRIDAY), 31st January, 1908, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 25th January to 15th February, both days inclusive.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, General Managers.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1908. 283

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING of the Shareholders in this Corporation will be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 15th day of February, 1908, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Court of Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

By Order of the Court of Directors, J. R. M. SMITH, Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1908. 282

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the REGISTER of SHARES of the Corporation will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 3rd to the 15th day of February, 1908 (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Court of Directors, J. R. M. SMITH, Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1908. 283

INTIMATIONS

GRAND BOXING CONTEST.

CITY HALL.

On WEDNESDAY, The 23rd FEBRUARY, 1908.

U.S. NAVY.

H.M.S. "KENT."

Booking and plans at ROBINSON PIANO CO.

Hongkong, 28th January, 1908. 275

NOW READY.

MAIL TABLES FOR 1908.

Shows the dates of departure of the Mails to Europe and America, and the dates of their expected arrival at their destinations, as well as the dates of return Mails.

Mounted on Card ... 30 Cents

On Paper ... 20

On Sale at the Hongkong Daily Press Office.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1908. 215

NOTICE

THE interest and responsibility of Mr. HEINRICH CONSTANTIN EDUARD MEYER in our Firms ceased by mutual consent on the 31st December, 1907.

MEYER & CO.

Hongkong, Shanghai, Canton, 24th January, 1908.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

No. 310 (Special).

CHINA SEA.

SANTUAO DISTRICT.

SPIDER ISLAND LIGHT ESTABLISHED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SPIDER ISLAND LIGHT is exhibited for the first time at sunset on the 16th January.

The illuminating apparatus is Dioptric, consisting of the Fourth Order, showing a fixed white light varied by an eclipse every 16 seconds, thus:—

Light ... 13 Seconds.

Eclipse ... 2 Seconds.

The Lighthouse stands on the most Easterly point of the North East end of Spider Island, and the light, which is elevated 142 feet above the level of the sea, should be visible in clear weather at a distance of 17½ nautical miles.

The Tower is an iron structure with a total height from base to lantern of 55 feet. The Tower and dwellings are painted white.

Approximate position: Latitude 26° 31' 25" N. Longitude 120° 4' 15" E.

W. FRED. TYLER, Coast Inspector.

Coast Inspector's Office, Shanghai, 23rd January, 1908. 278

IF YOU REQUIRE

ARTISTIC PICTORIAL POSTCARDS

POSTCARD PAINTING BOOKS.

STAMP, BIRTHDAY and POSTCARD ALBUMS, Mechanical Animals, Art Relief Novelties.

POSTAGE STAMPS in Bags, Packets, Sets, &c. &c. AND All other Philatelic Goods

CALL AT—GRACA & CO., Hongkong Hotel Corridor, Hongkong, 1st January, 1908. 119

COLD STORAGE

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD., have now 40,000 Cubic Feet of Cold Storage available at EAST POINT. Stores will be Open at 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. daily, Sunday excepted, to receive and deliver perishable goods.

WM. FARLANE, Manager.

INTIMATIONS

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT WARNING.

THE EUROPEAN RESIDENTS of the Colony are advised to avoid China Town during the forthcoming Chinese New Year Festival, UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN RECENTLY VACCINATED, owing to prevalence of Small-pox among the Chinese community.

J. M. ATKINSON, P.M.O.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1908. 281

NOTIFICATION

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that applications are invited for the Appointment of a FEMALE PROBATIONER NURSE, which will be vacant on the 1st of April next, in the Medical Department.

Applications in the handwriting of the applicants with Certificates of Character, etc., should be forwarded to the Principal Civil Medical Officer, at the Civil Hospital, not later than Noon of the 29th February next.

Salary, £6, £450 rising by annual increments of £0 to £600 per annum, with uniform, attendance, free furnished quarters and an allowance of \$51 per annum for fuel and light. Full Particulars may be had on application.

J. M. ATKINSON, Principal Civil Medical Officer.

Medical Department, Hongkong, 29th January, 1908. 280

WAR DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS.

TENDERS will be received at the HEAD QUARTERS OFFICE, Victoria Barracks, until 12 o'clock, Noon on WEDNESDAY, the 12th of FEBRUARY, 1908, for the undermentioned SUPPLIES and SERVICES for the period of 12 months from 1st April, 1908:—

1. MEAT.

2. HOSPITAL SUPPLIES and MEDICAL COMFORTS.

3. GENERAL SUPPLIES and PROVISIONS.

4. OIL, WICK and BARRACK SUPPLIES.

5. COAL, COKE, WOOD & CHARCOAL.

6. BARRACK SERVICES & SCAVENGING.

7. WASHING.

8. TRANSPORT SERVICES (Supply of Launches, Junks, Coolies, etc.).

9. FODDER.

Forms of Tender and any particulars can be obtained on application to this Office, personally or by letter, addressed to the OFFICE COMMANDING, Army Service Corps, between the hours of 10 A.M. and 4 P.M.

Tenders must be properly filled up, signed and dated, and no tender will be noticed unless delivered upon the proper form at the Head Quarter Office by 12 Noon on the above date, in a closed envelope marked "TENDERS" on the outside.

The right to reject any or all Tenders is reserved.

Head Quarter Office, Victoria Barracks, Hongkong, 28th January, 1908. 272

HARBOUR MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that information has been received from the Military Authorities that GUN PRACTICE will be carried out as under:—

On TUESDAY, the 28th January:—From STONECUTTERS in a Westerly direction, at ranges up to 10,000 yards commencing at 10 A.M., and finishing at 1 P.M.

On THURSDAY, the 3rd February:—From LYEMUN F.C. in a Easterly direction, at ranges up to 14,000 yards commencing at 2 P.M., and finishing at 5.30 P.M.

On MONDAY, the 3rd February:—From STONECUTTERS in a Westerly direction, at ranges up to 6,000 yards commencing at 10.30 A.M., and finishing at 1 P.M.

On WEDNESDAY, the 5th February:—From PINKWOOD in a Westerly direction, at ranges up to 10,000 yards commencing at 10 A.M., and finishing at 1 P.M.

On MONDAY, the 17th February:—From LYEMUN in a North-Easterly direction, at ranges up to 6,000 yards commencing at 7 P.M., and finishing at 11 P.M.

On TUESDAY, the 18th February:—From STONECUTTERS in a North-Westerly direction, at ranges up to 6,000 yards commencing at 7 P.M., and finishing at 11 P.M.

On THURSDAY, the 20th February:—From LYEMUN F.C. in a North-Easterly direction, at ranges up to 10,000 yards commencing at 7 P.M., and finishing at 11 P.M.

On FRIDAY, the 21st February:—From STONECUTTERS in a North-Westerly direction, at ranges up to 6,000 yards commencing at 7 P.M., and finishing at 11 P.M.

On TUESDAY, the 25th February:—From LYEMUN F.C. in a North-Easterly direction, at ranges up to 10,000 yards commencing at 7 P.M., and finishing at 11 P.M.

On TUESDAY, the 2nd March:—From STONECUTTERS in a Westerly direction, at ranges up to 10,000 yards commencing at 7 P.M., and finishing at 11 P.M.

If the weather is unfavourable on any of the above dates, practice will take place on the following day.

All ships, junks and other vessels are to keep clear of the ranges.

BASIL TAYLOR, Commander, R.N., Harbour Master, &c.

Hongkong, 25th January, 1908. 261

KWONG WOO.

JEWELLER, DEALER IN SILKS, &c.

No. 78, Queen's Road, Central.

BEGS to inform his Patrons and the General Public that, owing to necessary extension of stock to meet increased business, he will REMOVE to his New and more spacious Premises at No. 68, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL, (seven doors East of his present premises) on 3rd January, 1908.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1908. 131

WANTED

WANTED. AN ENGLISH SETTER, (dog). Apply to—Care of "Daily Press" Office, Hongkong, 29th January, 1908. 271

WANTED

POSITION in Mercantile Firm by Young Man just out from Home. Perfect knowledge of English and German; good knowledge of French and general routine of Office Work. Apply to—Box 223, Care of "Daily Press" Office, Hongkong, 23rd January, 1908. 250

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

APPLICATIONS will be received by the Under-Signed up to the 29th February 1908, for the Post of ACTING SECRETARY to the above Club for Twelve Months from the 1st April, 1908 to the 31st April, 1909, with the prospect of a permanent appointment as Secretary.

Applicants should be unmarried as residence on the Club Premises is essential.

By Order, C. H. GRACE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 27th January, 1908. 265

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE Post of COMPTROLLER to the above Club, becomes vacant on the 31st March, 1908. Applications to fill the same will be received by the undersigned up to the 31st January, 1908.

C. H. GRACE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1908. 172

FOR SALE

FOR SALE.

SITUATE at North Point, Shaikwan Road, Hongkong, (next to the Metropole Hotel). The property contains by admeasurement 108,950 square feet. Crown Rent, \$238.00 per annum.

For further particulars, apply to GOLDING & BARLOW, Solicitors, 10, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, 12th September 1907. 106

STORAGE.

TO BE LET, a Portion of MARINE LOT No. 235 at NORTH POINT, Suitable for above Purpose. EXTENSIVE WATER FRONT. DEEP WATER.

Portions of MARINE LOTS Nos. 31 & 36 at PRAYA EAST. Approximate AREA 6,000 SQUARE FT. 99 YEARS' LEASE. For Particulars, apply—

GEO. FENWICK & Co., Ltd., Hongkong, 8th June, 1908. 184

ON SALE.

THE FIFTY YEARS ANGLIO-CHINESE CALENDAR 日曆英中 年十五

FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1864 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1913, BEING FROM THE 1ST YEAR OF THE 76TH CYCLE TO THE 50TH YEAR OF THE 76TH CYCLE THAT IS THE 3RD YEAR OF TUNG CHI TO THE 30TH YEAR OF KWONG SUI.

PRICE \$2 CASH.

On Sale at the "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" Office, or Agents in all the Ports of the Far East.

The Book will be sent by Registered Post (free) to any part of the World unrepresented by Agents on receipt of Money Order.

Hongkong, 3rd October, 1906. 1841

ON SALE.

A TABLE OF THE RATES OF EXCHANGE AT HONGKONG

For Demand Drafts on London on the day of or preceding the departure of the English Mails; also Table of the Yearly Approximate Averages for 33 Years—From 1874 to 1906.

Price: \$2 Cash. On sale at the "DAILY PRESS" Office or Local Booksellers.

HONGKONG

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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